

Listing of the claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all the prior listings of the claims in this application.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of early diagnosis of ~~diagnosing~~ an inflammatory disease or condition associated with articular cartilage or bone surfaces in a mammal, comprising: a) obtaining a ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample from said mammal; and b) detecting an amount of a chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said sample, wherein presence of chlorinated peptides in the bodily fluid sample is indicative of the early diagnosis of the inflammatory disease.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said detecting step further comprises measuring said amount of said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) ~~are~~ contains at least one of the group of chlorinated forms of pyridinoline cross-links, lysine/hydroxylysine residues, aromatic amino acids, ketoimines and pyrrole cross-links.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said method comprises the immunospecific binding of an antibody to said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said method comprises detecting said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample by U.V. absorbance or fluorescence.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said method comprises detecting said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample by mass spectrometry.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) ~~are~~ contains at least one of the group of chlorinated forms of pyridinoline cross-links, lysine/hydroxylysine residues, aromatic amino acids, ketoimines and pyrrole cross-links.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein said method comprises the immunospecific binding of an antibody to said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein said method comprises detecting said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample by U.V. absorbance or fluorescence.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein said method comprises detecting said chlorinated ~~compound~~/peptide(s) in said ~~patient~~ bodily fluid sample by mass spectrometry.

12. CANCELLED

13. CANCELLED

14. CANCELLED